

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David Ray Meyer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and Venturing and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Silver Award.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS FROM  
HALF HOLLOW HILLS EAST HIGH  
SCHOOL

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2003*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students from Half Hollow Hills East High School in Dix Hills, NY for their top-ten finish in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national finals.

The students, Andrew Blaesser, Hye Yeon Choi, Paige Gottheim, Farhang Heydari, Ravi Kambhampaty, Ross Kaplan, Cecilia Lero, Lauren Lichtman, Amitai Perline, Amreen Quadir, Jeremy Rovinsky, Joseph Schlingbaum, Sunjeet Sidhu, Brett Streisand, Tiffany Teng and Joshua Wiener, led by their teacher Scott Edwards, demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

It is truly an honor to call these outstanding young Americans my constituents. Their success in this competition is also a testament to the exceptional teachers at Half Hollow Hills East High School and elsewhere on Long Island.

I offer my congratulations on their hard-won honorable mention and commend these students on their dedication to the study of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL RUSSELL  
AUSTIN NEWMAN (RET.)

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2003*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 22nd, 2003, Tennessee lost one of its finest soldiers. Colonel Russell Austin Newman (ret.) was a man who spent his life dedicated to serving and protecting Tennessee and its citizens.

Colonel Newman was born in Knoxville, TN on December 9th, 1929. He grew up there and attended the University of Tennessee, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in May of 1953. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in the U.S. Army from ROTC.

His military education included the Infantry Officers Basic Course, the Armor Officers Advanced Course and the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College, C&GSC. Colonel Newman, during his career, served in numerous command and staff positions while on active duty and in the National Guard. He served as the first Regimental Commander, designated as the First Colonel of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, ACR, in Knoxville when it was initially organized in the Tennessee National Guard in 1977. This unit became one of only two heavy armored cavalry

regiments in the Nation. It is today an enhanced brigade of the Army National Guard of the United States, a very prestigious designation that keeps it a state-of-the-art unit.

Colonel Newman served as an instructor for the Tennessee Military Academy's Officer Candidate School, the Army National Guard Professional Education Center, and the United States Army Command and General Staff College. His military awards include: the Legion of Merit, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Many East Tennesseans served under Colonel Newman's command. As a former Guardsman, I served as his Judge Advocate General. I appreciated both his leadership and friendship.

After retiring from the military in June of 1985, with nearly 32 years of military service, Colonel Newman joined the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, TEMA. In March of 1986, when TEMA was organized into regions along the lines of the State's three Grand Divisions, Colonel Newman was named the first director of the East Region and retired from that post in March of 1999.

Colonel Newman was well known throughout East Tennessee in both roles and through public service. He was the first of only seven officers to command the 278th ACR and his later emergency management work included developing plans for local governments that still bear his stamp. Colonel Newman did not limit his work to East Tennessee; one of his first acts after becoming East Region director was to go to West Tennessee and help write the regional earthquake response plan.

Colonel Newman was a past president of the National Guard Association of Tennessee and served numerous public service organizations in East Tennessee, including tenure as Chairman and member on the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries, President of the Knoxville-Knox County Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad, Vice Chairman of the Knox County Emergency Management LEPC, President of the North Side Optimist Club, Chairman of the Knox Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, and a counselor for the John Tarleton Home for Children.

Colonel Newman was the only son of Russell A. and Georgia Newman. His loving daughter, Ann Rita Dittmore, son, Sergeant Charles Newman, only grandson, Hunter Dittmore, son-in-law, Floyd Dittmore, sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Howard Bozeman, and brother-in-law, J. W. Morton, all of Knoxville, Tennessee, mourn the passing of this great commander, soldier, leader, father, grandfather, father-in-law, brother and brother-in-law.

A celebration of life and reception was held at the Tennessee Army National Guard Armory on Tuesday, March 25, 2003, prior to inurement at the Tennessee Veterans Cemetery in Knoxville.

HONORING DANIEL ADISON AYERS  
FOR EARNING THE SILVER  
AWARD OF VENTURING

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Adison Ayers, a very spe-

cial young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and Venturing, and in earning the most prestigious Silver Award.

Daniel has been very active in Venturing having camped 383 nights, traveling afoot or afloat for 491 miles and taking expeditions at Boundary Waters in 1997 and Philmont in 2000. In the 12 years he has been involved in Boy Scouts and Venturing, Daniel has served in many leadership capacities as patrol leader, junior assistant scout master, assistant scout master, senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, VOA vice president, crew secretary and crew president.

Additionally, Daniel has received numerous awards for his many achievements. He has been honored with the Arrow of Light Award, the Scout Through Life Award, the Eagle Scout Award, the Bronze and Gold Venturing Awards and the Venturing Leadership Award.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Adison Ayers for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and Venturing and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Silver Award.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK 2003—  
NURSES: LIFTING SPIRITS,  
TOUCHING LIVES

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2003*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Nurses Week, an established recognition event created to pay tribute to the nurses who give care to millions of patients every day. National Nurses Week is celebrated every year beginning May 6 and ending May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. "Nurses: Lifting Spirits, Touching Lives." is the theme for 2003.

As a nurse for over thirty years, I am proud to be part of such a caring and compassionate group of professionals. And as a Member of Congress, I have the wonderful opportunity of fighting for issues and policies that affect nurses and the nursing profession.

A major national issue concerning the nursing profession is the growing nursing shortage. With various new career options for healthcare professionals today, prompting nurses to gradually move away from patient care and into fields with better pay and benefits, nurses are grappling with becoming financially competitive.

Of the estimated 2.5 million licensed nurses in our country, 400,000 have left the profession for other pursuits. In 2000, Long Island had an 8 percent RN vacancy rate and a 16 percent LPN vacancy rate. Nationwide, hospitals need more than 125,000 nurses to fill all the nursing positions available today.

Over the past few years, I have been successful in educating my colleagues on both sides of the aisle about the importance of addressing the nursing shortage. It is vital for the health of this nation that the nursing field continues attracting experienced and educated candidates.

To that end, I played a lead role in the passage of H.R. 1436, the Nurse Reinvestment Act last year. This critical piece of legislation

combines my own bill to provide money for Magnet hospitals Accreditation and another bill I offered to retain and attract nurses. Magnet hospitals enjoy low turnover and top-notch work conditions. Nurses at magnet hospitals consistently report greater job satisfaction than other nurses, and patients also give these types of hospitals high ratings. Attracting more nurses to move into positions at magnet hospitals will both lower the nursing shortage and help the profession remain competitive with other health care fields.

Although last year's legislation is a good start, more needs to be done to find ways to recruit more young people to the nursing profession. That is why earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 934, the Teacher's and Nurses Support Act of 2003. This bill provides loan forgiveness for teachers and nurses around the country. I want to encourage every student that nursing, in my view, is the best profession in the world. This legislation would help eliminate financial barriers to pursuing a nursing career.

In closing, I urge my fellow nurses to tell friends, children and neighbors about all the positive aspects of being a nurse. We need to excite our students in high school and junior high about our career choice and how nurses are always there to help the sick get better and to make sure the healthy stay that way.

HONORING THE SELECTION OF MS.  
ERIN BEAULIEU FOR THE PRU-  
DENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY  
AWARD

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Ms. Erin Beaulieu upon her selection as one of two recipients of the Virginia 2003 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

Erin, a Red Cross member and eighth-grader at Whitman Middle School in Alexandria, Virginia, started a Red Cross student chapter at her school and encouraged her fellow students to become involved! The chapter now boasts more than 30 members dedicated to helping the American Red Cross respond. For her efforts, she was selected from more than 24,000 nominees to receive a Spirit of Community Award.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, constitute America's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer service. The award was created with the intent to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example.

Erin should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Erin for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that

young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Erin for all that she has done.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
JESSE BROWN

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2003*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleague, the gentleman from Chicago, DANNY DAVIS in recognizing a true American hero, the Honorable Jesse Brown. The late Jesse Brown served as the Secretary "for" Veterans Affairs from 1993–1997. Jesse insisted that people refer to him as the Secretary "for" Veterans Affairs in order to emphasize his role as a champion of veterans. It is for this role that he will always be remembered.

Jesse spent his teens and early adulthood in Chicago where his mother, Mrs. Lucille Brown, continues to reside today. It is fitting that we re-name the West Side division of VA Chicago in his name.

Jesse was a personal friend of mine, but thousands of veterans in this Nation also recognized him as a friend. He oversaw a period of growth and improvement in the VA health care system that changed many Americans' view of the health care system by modernizing and greatly improving the quality of its services and allowing new access to millions.

Jesse never took "no" for an answer. When it came to demanding the best for our veterans, he would even take on the President. I remember the legendary stories of his trips to the White House to challenge the President's budgets for veterans. He always wanted more and he almost always won. Even at his memorial service, which I, along with former-President Clinton, attended this past summer, long-time friends and associates spoke of a man to whom it was impossible to say no.

Jesse's path was probably laid for him when he was wounded in combat while on patrol in Danang. The injury would leave him partially paralyzed for the rest of his life. After a long period of recuperation, Secretary Brown began a career in veterans' advocacy that spanned the remainder of his life. The Secretary worked his way up the Disabled American Veterans structure culminating his 25-year career by serving as executive director from 1989–1993.

As Secretary "for" Veterans Affairs, Jesse fought to make good on his promise of "putting veterans first." He made it his priority to meet veterans whose needs had long gone unrecognized—he made homelessness "the fifth mission" of the VA. He added counseling for women who experienced sexual trauma during military service. He worked tirelessly to expand benefits for veterans who were former prisoners-of-war and for those exposed to Agent Orange, radiation and mustard gas. He began an aggressive research agenda into the causes and effective treatments for veterans of the first Persian Gulf War.

Even toward the end of his life, Secretary Brown continued his advocacy for veterans as

the first executive director of the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation. Sadly, Jesse left us all too soon after a struggle with Lou Gehrig's disease this past summer. He is survived by his wife Sylvia, along with two children Carmen Stewart and Scott Brown and many other relatives and friends.

As a fellow Marine, Jesse truly knew the meaning of "leave no man behind." He lived his life according to that creed. He has earned the honor we are bestowing upon him today.

IMPROVING EDUCATION RESULTS  
FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABIL-  
ITIES ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last week the House considered H.R. 1350, Improving Education Results for Children With Disabilities Act of 2003. I would like to add the following list of organizations opposed to H.R. 1350 for inclusion in the RECORD:

National PTA, Children's Defense Fund, National Association of Education of Young Children, American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association on Mental Retardation, American Association of University Affiliated Programs, American Council of the Blind, American Counseling Association, American Music Therapy Association, American Occupational Therapy Association, American Physical Therapy Association, American Society for Deaf Children.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, The Arc of the United States, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Council for Exceptional Children, Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund, Disability Service Providers of America, Easter Seals, Epilepsy Foundation, Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.

Higher Education Consortium for Special Education, Learning Disabilities Association of America, National Alliance of Pupil Service Organizations, National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils, National Association of Mental Illness, National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of Social Workers, National Center for Learning Disabilities, National Coalition on Deaf-Blindness, National Coalition of Parent Centers, National Committee of Parents Organized to Protect IDEA.

National Consortium for Physical Education and Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities, National Down Syndrome Congress, National Down Syndrome Society, National Mental Health Association, Research Institute for Independent Living, School Social Work Association of America, TASH, Teacher Education Division/Council for Exceptional Children, The International Dyslexia Association, Tourette Syndrome Association, UCP.